

REPORT  
OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1885.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

OTTAWA, 1st January, 1886.

*To His Excellency the Most Honorable The Marquess of Lansdowne, Governor General of Canada, &c., &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

I have the honor to submit for Your Excellency's information the Report of this Department for the year 1885.

The condition of Indian matters in the several Provinces of the Dominion has been generally satisfactory during the past year. And if the same cannot be said with regard to the North-West Territories as a whole, it is due to circumstances over which this Department had no control, but which were the result of specious inducements held out to the Indians of the North-West Territories by the leader of the half-breed insurgents and his lieutenants, and to which several of the Indian bands on the North Saskatchewan lent too ready an ear, which resulted in some of them forgetting the allegiance they owed their Sovereign, and becoming involved in the rebellious movement, and eventually committing crimes, for the more serious of which those whose guilt was confessed or proven suffered the extreme penalty of the law, and others convicted of having been guilty of outrages of a less criminal nature were sentenced to and are undergoing imprisonment for long or short terms, as the extent of the offences committed by them justified. That the Indians who revolted had no reason for doing so, in so far as their treatment was concerned, is sufficiently established by the concurrent testimony of all those connected with the management of the Indians in the North-West Territories, as also by the fact that they had no intention of joining in the insurrection until messages reached them

from the leaders of the half-breed insurgents, assuring them that great benefits, in the shape of rich booty, would accrue to them in the event of success attending the rebels, which they were also told was a foregone conclusion. Moreover, the fact of the Indians being connected by blood relationship with the half-breeds had, of course, great influence with the former. These messages were more successful in misleading the Indians after the encounter had by the North-West Mounted Police with the rebels at Duck Lake—that affair having been represented by the runners sent by the insurgents to the Indians as having been a great success for the rebels. Their old instincts for the war path were thus aroused in several of the bands, more especially in those wandering tribes not settled on reserves, such as Big Bear's following at Frog Lake, by some of whom the majority of the more revolting atrocities were perpetrated, such as the massacre at that place of two clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church, and of the Indian agent, the farming instructor, and several other white people.

The last advices received from the above officials before they were thus ruthlessly slain indicated no apprehension on their part of an Indian outbreak, but, on the contrary, that they were on the best of terms with the Indians, and that the latter were working well and were quite contented. The same good accounts were received just previous to the uprising from the other points at which the Indians were induced to act with the insurgent half-breeds. On the 17th of March Mr. Acting Indian Agent Lash wrote from Carlton: "I have the honor to state I visited Duck Lake yesterday, and remained over night in that neighborhood, and am pleased to report the Indians are all quiet, and not interfering with the half-breed movement. The latter are still a little uneasy, but I trust the precautions taken by the Police have cooled their ardor, as they are starting on freighting trips, and I am inclined to think their excitement will blow over."

As will be observed from the same officer's annual report, which will be found with the appendices attached to this report, on the 18th of March, only three days after the date of his letter above quoted, being apparently the next occasion of his visiting the above locality, which he did in consequence of a rumor having reached him that the half-breeds were tampering with the Indians, he "was surrounded by an armed mob of about forty half-breeds, commanded by Riel, who gave orders to make him and his interpreter prisoners. "This," he adds, "was done, and I remained a prisoner in the rebel camp, until released by General Middleton's column, on the 12th May." It should be here stated, that at about the same time the farming instructor at Duck Lake, and other loyal subjects, were also made prisoners, and that these men were subjected to great indignities at the hands of the rebels. During the last ten days of their captivity they were kept in a dark cellar, from which they were not allowed egress for any purpose whatever, the cellar being at the same time without any means of ventilation, except that afforded by a few chinks in the foundation.

The agent at Battleford reports that the Indians of that vicinity were better clothed last winter than usual ; that there were sufficient provisions on the different reserves to last until June, and that all seemed happy and contented until the half-breed insurgents began to trouble them with messages. The purport of these false missives was, among other things, that the troops were on the way northward, and that the Indians would either be enlisted as soldiers or be massacred. The effect which attended the receipt of these messages was afterwards only too evident. The town of Battleford was sacked : the farming instructor on the Assiniboine or Stony Indian reserve at Eagle Hills, and one of the settlers of the vicinity, were murdered ; the farming instructor and his family on the Cree Indian reserve, in the same locality, barely escaped with their lives, by fleeing to Swift Current, the nearest point on the Canadian Pacific Railway ; and the inhabitants of the town and of the adjacent country were forced to seek refuge in the fort of the North-West Mounted Police at Battleford, which was besieged by the half-breeds and Indians for several weeks, until reinforcements came to the relief of the garrison. The Indians who revolted do not plead grievances in extenuation of their having done so. On the contrary, they express regret for the part they took, and say they were led into it by the leader of the half breed insurrection. And those of them who suffered for their crimes on the gallows publicly acknowledged that they deserved the punishment, and advised their compatriots to be warned by their fate not to follow their example.

The Department had taken especial care, inasmuch as their crops had proved a failure, to provide, in the autumn of 1884, an extra large supply of provisions for the districts in which they afterwards became disaffected, and the Indians consequently had an abundance of food. The excitement extended as far west as Edmonton, and to the Bear Hills south of that place ; but with the exception of the looting of the farming instructor's house and the storehouse at Saddle Lake, and the pillaging of the Hudson Bay Company's store and the house of the Methodist missionary on Battle River, in the Bear Hills, no deeds of rapine were committed, although the Indians were greatly excited, and for some time there were grave apprehensions of an uprising ; but wiser counsels prevailed with them, and the arrival of the military effectually removed the difficulties of the situation.

It is gratifying to be able to bear testimony to the loyalty, during this most trying time, of several of the most prominent chiefs, and the bands represented by them, whose reserves are situated in the districts affected by the late rebellion. I would mention specially the names of Chiefs Mis-to-was-sis and At-tak-a-koop, the most important Indian leaders of the Carlton section, and those of Chiefs John Smith, James Smith and William Twatt, leading chiefs in the vicinity of Prince Albert. Chiefs Moosomin and Thunder Child, whose reserves are situated near Battleford, also deserve mention ; the latter, however, owing to his band having run short of supplies, and the impossibility of obtaining any elsewhere, had to seek the rebel's camp. All of the above chiefs and their followers removed to a distance

from the scene of the trouble, as they had no sympathy with it. Chief Pecan *alias* Seenum, of Whitefish Lake, deserves special mention. He is the most influential of the chiefs of that section of country east of Victoria and west of Frog Lake, and has the most numerous band: which he managed to control, and they, led by their chief, successfully resisted an attempt made by a war party from Big Bear's band to pillage the store of the Hudson Bay Company at Whitefish Lake, one man having been killed in the encounter. Chief Blue Quill, of Egg Lake, south of Victoria, and his band, likewise remained loyal; as did also chief Muddy Ball, of Pigeon Lake, and Chief Chepostiquahn, or Sharphead, of Peace Hills, south of Edmonton, and their followers. The other chiefs and bands of the country adjacent to Edmonton, although they were considerably excited, committed no overt acts, if we except the raiding by some of Chief Bobtail's band of the Hudson Bay Company's Store at Battle River and the residence of the missionary of the Methodist Church at Bear Hills, which matters have already been referred to; and I should state that those Indians have consented that the cost of the damage done by them shall be paid for from their annuities.

None of the Indians in the southern part of the district of Alberta took any part in the rebellion, notwithstanding that messages urging them strongly to do so were constantly being received by them. The chiefs remained true to their allegiance, and their followers obeyed them, by abstaining from any interference in the matter. Many of the young men of the Blackfeet, Bloods and Piegans were anxious to be allowed to fight on behalf of the Crown against the insurgents. The chiefs in this section of the Territories whose names deserve special mention are, Red Crow, head chief of the Bloods; Crowfoot and Old Sun, head chiefs of the Blackfeet; Eagle Tail (recently deceased), head chief of the Piegans; Jacob, Bear's Paw, and Chinniquy, head chiefs of the Stoneys or Assiniboines, of Morleyville.

In the district of Assiniboia, which, from its geographical position, was more readily reached from the Saskatchewan district by the emissaries of the rebels than other parts, the Indians were constantly besieged with messages from the half-breed insurrectionists, urging them in the strongest terms to revolt and assist in the movement. With the exception of about twenty or thirty, who plundered the houses and property of a few settlers, none of the Indians responded to the call; although they were naturally greatly excited by the messages received, as well as by seeing so many troops moving north; for all of them had to pass that way to the scene of the troubles, and a considerable force was also stationed in their vicinity. The rebels did not omit to inform these Indians, as they had done elsewhere, that they would be massacred by the soldiers in the event of the insurgents being defeated, whether they had fought or not. It required all the influence which the Indian agents for the locality, Col. McDonald, of Indian Head, and Mr. Lawrence Herchmer, of Birtle, and those acting under them, could bring to bear upon the Indians, to remove the false impression engendered by these messages in their

minds. Those officers were indefatigable in moving about among them and quieting their fears. And I beg here to state that all the officials connected with the Indian service in the North-West Territories, Manitoba and Keewatin, from the Indian Commissioner, Assistant Indian Commissioner and Superintending Inspector at Winnipeg, downwards, deserve great commendation for the zealous efforts made by them to keep the Indians loyal, and which endeavors, I am sure, all are thankful to know were, as regards the great majority of the Indians, entirely successful. And I would also be lacking in a recognition of what is properly due to those who assisted us with their wise counsel and active sympathy in that trying time did I omit to acknowledge the eminent services rendered by several clergymen and other gentlemen, who, though not directly connected with the Indian management in the North-West, voluntarily and magnanimously lent their services; and, by their influence with the Indians, were, doubtless, largely instrumental in preserving order amongst them. In this connection I would especially mention the Rev. Father Lacombe, Principal of the St. Joseph's Industrial School at High River; the Rev. Father Scollen, of the St. Albert Mission; Mr. C. E. Denny, of Fort McLeod, and the officers of the Honorable the Hudson Bay Company generally.

Despatches expressive of their loyalty and attachment to their Sovereign, and of their disapproval of the insurrection, were received from time to time, from Indian chiefs in several parts of the North-West Territories, Manitoba and Keewatin.

It is encouraging to learn, from the report of the Indian commissioner for these portions of the Dominion, that notwithstanding the excitement incident to the rebellion, educational progress among the Indian children was not seriously retarded in the North-West Territories, as shown by seven new schools having been opened during the year, and the increase generally in the number of children attending the schools. It is much to be regretted, however, that the industrial institution established at Battleford was pillaged by the half-breeds and Indians, and the building greatly damaged. So soon as the rebellion was quelled and the troops had been withdrawn from Battleford, this institution was re-opened, the Indian children being glad to return to it. But, later, when the artillery was sent to that point, it had again to be vacated and given over to them, as no accommodation could be found elsewhere for the troops. The Department, however, succeeded in securing two vacant houses, where the children are at present lodged and taught, until more suitable arrangements can be made. The two industrial institutions at High River, in the district of Alberta, and at Qu'Appelle, in the district of Assiniboia, have continued their operations. It is proposed, provided Parliament will vote money for the purpose, to establish another institution of the same type in the vicinity of Long Lake, in the district of Assiniboia, and to select the Principal and other officers of the institution from the Presbyterian denomination.

Except on the reserves on the North Saskatchewan, a considerable quantity of land was brought under cultivation, and the Indians worked well. Especially was this the case on the reserves in the southern part of the district of Alberta, where the Indians generally remained steadily at work, as did those, also, in the western part of Manitoba, and the large majority of the Indians in the district of Assiniboia.

As elsewhere intimated, the Indians of Manitoba, and of the district of Keewatin, generally, had no sympathy with the insurgents, but denounced the rebellion in no measured terms.

#### ONTARIO.

The Six Nation Indians, whose reserve is situated on the Grand River, in the counties of Brant and Haldimand, number three thousand two hundred and sixteen souls, being a decrease of fourteen since last year's report was compiled. This diminution in population is attributable to a prevalence among children of whooping cough and scarlet fever;—these epidemics having proved fatal in numerous cases. That this decrease of population is purely fortuitous, and not to be regarded as likely to be continuous, is capable of being proven by adverting to the annual census taken for many years past of these Indians—when it will be found that they have increased in twenty years by five hundred in population.

That their natural energies are not on the decline can be shown by the fact that they added during the year five hundred and fifty acres to the land previously under cultivation in the reserve, making an aggregate of twenty-seven thousand three hundred and sixteen acres of land under tillage. Their harvest consisted of seventy-six thousand six hundred and fifty bushels of produce and one thousand eight hundred and eighty tons of hay.

The twelve schools on the reserve are making fair progress. The Public School Inspector reports, regarding them, that he notices a decided improvement since last year.

The small but progressive band of Mississaguas, who occupy a tract within the Six Nation reserve, and between whom and the Six Nations the most friendly and sympathetic feeling has always existed, having, as stated in my report for the year 1883, adopted a code of rules and regulations for the better government of the community, which received Your Excellency's approval, and thus became law, appointed during the past year the necessary officials to carry out the provisions of the same. This band has thus a *quasi* municipal system for the management of roads, fences, ditches, pounds, schools, &c., &c. Its progress in agriculture is satisfactory, and an evidence of increased interest in educational matters is afforded by the fact that a more commodious building for school purposes is desired by the band,

and one will be erected so soon as some matters of detail in connection with the plan of the building have been arranged.

The efficient head chief of this band, whose Indian name is Kah-ke-wa-quona-by, but who is better known under his English patronymic of Dr. Jones, has been largely instrumental in bringing about the satisfactory condition in which matters are at present on this reserve. For although he has his professional practice to attend to (Dr. Jones holds a diploma from Queen's College, Kingston), he takes a deep and active interest in the welfare of his people.

The Chippewa and Pottawattamie bands, who occupy Walpole Island, in the River St. Clair, are annually improving in material wealth, and their interest in the education of their children is also greater than was formerly the case. They have two day schools in operation on the reserve, and many of their children are afforded educational advantages of a higher character at the industrial institutions at Mount Elgin and Sanit Ste. Marie.

The population of the two bands is seven hundred and ninety-four. They have two thousand two hundred and ninety-seven acres of land under cultivation, of which quantity one hundred and twenty-seven and a half acres were broken up for the first time this year. The quantity of produce raised by them was sixteen thousand two hundred and fifty-four bushels, and they also cut six hundred and eighty tons of hay. These and the other resources possessed by them from fishing, hunting, and the sale of Indian handicraft, place the majority of these Indians in very comfortable circumstances.

I regret to have to record the decease of the much-respected missionary to the Chippewa band—the Rev. Mr. Jamieson—who, after devoting forty years of his life to their service, died in the month of June last.

The band known as the Chippewas of Chenail Ecarté and St. Clair, or Chippewas of Sarnia, which is divided into three sections, resident upon as many tracts of land, situated respectively near Sarnia, at Kettle Point, and on the River aux Sables, raised crops far in excess of those of any previous year. The whole quantity of produce raised was eighteen thousand three hundred and seven bushels, and they likewise saved two hundred and twenty-three tons of hay. They added ninety-one acres of land to the one thousand and fifteen acres previously cultivated by them. The population of the Chippewas on the three reserves is four hundred and eighty-three, and interspersed among them are some twenty-seven Pottawattamies. The Indians on the Sarnia reserve have shown a praiseworthy desire to improve the roads and to drain their lands, which will greatly augment their value.

The two bands of Chippewas and Munceys who occupy the reserve in the township of Caradoc, in the County of Middlesex, are making fair progress in

agriculture. The former band, as stated in my report for the year 1882, allowed the Department to lease for the benefit of the individual claimants thereof all surplus unused land on the reserve, the understanding being, that when the leases expire the land, which is to be brought into a good state of cultivation by the lessees, shall revert to and be worked by the Indian claimants; and in order to enable them to do so effectively, the Department retains out of the rents received from the lessees a certain proportion, wherewith to purchase implements and stock for the Indians when they are ready to assume the working of the land.

The municipalities in the immediate vicinity of this reserve having adopted the Act prohibiting the public sale of spirituous liquors, the facilities for these Indians to obtain the same will be greatly diminished. Hitherto, I regret to say, they have been able to procure intoxicants too easily.

There are four schools in operation on the reserve.

In the same agency the Oneida band, who, as stated in previous reports, occupy a reserve in the Township of Delaware, are included. These Indians are highly intelligent and their progress is quite marked. There are three schools on the reserve, which are conducted more efficiently and with a greater degree of success than was formerly the case. The remarks made in respect to the liquor traffic as affecting the Chippewas and Muncey Indians, on the reserve in Caradoc, are equally applicable to the Oneida band; and these Indians will be similarly benefited by the adoption of the prohibitory liquor law. The population of the three bands numbers one thousand three hundred and forty-two. They have one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three acres under cultivation, of which one hundred and fifteen acres were newly broken this year. The quantity of produce raised by them amounted to fifty-four thousand six hundred and thirty-five bushels, and they also cut seven hundred and seventy tons of hay.

The small band of Indians known as the Moravians of the Thames, whose reserve is situated in the Township of Orford, in the County of Kent, appear to be making pleasing progress. They number only two hundred and seventy-two souls, but they raised ten thousand four hundred and forty-three bushels of produce of various kinds, and cut one hundred and twenty-four tons of hay. They keep their roads in excellent order, and their schools—of which they have two—are in a satisfactory condition, both as regards efficiency and attendance—the latter being more regular and numerous than is the case with Indian schools generally. This has been secured by the adoption, voluntarily, of a system of fines imposed on parents for non-attendance of children.

The Mississaguas of Rice and Mud Lakes, whose reserves are situated in the County of Northumberland, have, I regret to state, suffered much from sickness during a portion of the past year. Their sanitary condition is, however, now improved.



They subsist mainly on the products of the chase and fisheries. Their manufacture of Indian handiwork is likewise considerable. Many of them, moreover, compete in the labor market with their white brethren, and a few of them farm successfully.

There is a school on each reserve.

The two bands number two hundred and fifty souls. They have nine hundred and sixty-three acres under cultivation, whereof six acres were newly broken this year. From this land the yield was four thousand two hundred and sixty bushels of grain and roots and sixty-two tons of hay.

The Mississaguas of Alwick, in the same county, do not appear to be making the progress one would desire to see. Their agent reports that intemperance has increased among them, and that he is unable to bring to trial the parties who supply them with the liquor, owing to the indisposition of the Indians to testify against them. The population of this band is two hundred and thirty-two, and they have two thousand three hundred and fifty-nine acres under cultivation, the yield from which was four thousand eight hundred and fifty bushels of grain and root crops, and thirty-five tons of hay.

There is a school in operation on the reserve.

The Mississaguas of Scugog, whose reserve is situated on the island of that name in the county of Ontario, number but forty-four souls. They devoted a portion of their funds to the purchase, last spring, of horses, waggons, ploughs and other implements; and they have since been giving much more attention to farming. During the past season they broke up eighty-two acres of new land, which, when added to the area previously cultivated, makes two hundred acres of land under cultivation, from which one thousand and fifty bushels of grain and roots were produced and four tons of hay cut. These Indians derive a large portion of their subsistence from the waters of Lake Scugog, which afford them an unlimited supply of fish.

They are improving in their habits of temperance; intoxicants being now used by very few of them.

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinté are making fair progress in farming. They number nine hundred and seventy-five souls, and have nine thousand two hundred acres under tillage; the produce from which amounted to thirty-nine thousand six hundred and seventy-one bushels of grain and roots, and two hundred and sixty-eight tons of hay. The quantity of new land broken this season was twenty-six acres.

There are four schools in operation on the reserve.

The fencing of the farms on this tract had fallen greatly into disrepair, and the band, in the early part of the year, resolved to re-fence their fields with metal

fencing, known as the "Backthorn steel ribbon fencing," and to pay for the same from the funds at their credit, on condition that one-half of the cost shall be re-funded by the individual members of the band whose lands are fenced out of their shares of interest upon the invested capital, or from the rent money received from lands leased for the benefit of such members. The Department considered it advisable to accede to the desire of the band, as there is no wood suitable for fencing on the reserve, and metal fencing is more durable, and cannot be burnt as fuel—a great portion of the wooden fences having been so used in the past. Your Excellency, by an Order in Council, was pleased to sanction the expenditure, and the work is now being proceeded with.

In consequence of the increase of intemperance in this band, the Department resolved upon adopting strenuous measures to lessen the facilities with which intoxicating liquor could be obtained by the Indians. Dominion constables were sent to the locality, and several dealers in liquor were brought to trial; and subsequently the services of the village constable at Deseronto, the point at which liquor was principally obtained, were enlisted, with the gratifying result that at the present time the spectacle of an Indian under the influence of liquor in the locality is as unusual as it was formerly customary.

The Chippewas of Georgina and Snake Islands, in Lake Simcoe, whose reserve comprises those islands, are giving more attention to stock raising and farming, and every year shews marked progress in both enterprises. The population of the band is one hundred and thirty-four, and they have three hundred and ten acres under tillage, whereof ten acres were newly broken this year. The quantity of produce raised by them amounted to three thousand four hundred and thirty bushels of grain and roots, and they cut also twenty-two tons of hay.

A portion of the land on Georgina Island has been sub-divided by survey into farm lots, with a view to location tickets being issued to the individual occupants of the same. There is a school in operation on the island.

The Chippewa band, whose reserve is situated in the Township of Rama, in the County of Ontario, appear to be advancing in civilization. They erected, during the year, a commodious building, two stories in height, and 24 feet broad by 42 feet long, to serve for school purposes and for holding public meetings. They have also engaged in the planting of fruit trees. The population of this band is two hundred and forty. They have seven hundred and seventy-nine acres under tillage, thirteen acres of which were freshly broken this year. The products of the soil amounted to four thousand one hundred and ninety-four bushels, and they cut sixty-six tons of hay. There is a school in operation on the reserve.

The Chippewas of Saugeen, whose reserve is situated near Southampton, in the County of Bruce, number three hundred and forty-seven souls. They appear to be

making progress in farming. They are also paying more attention to the roads and ditches on the reserve. The prohibitory liquor law, which has been adopted by the County of Bruce, has acted most beneficially for these Indians, as it has also for other bands resident within districts where the same is in force.

These Indians have nine hundred acres under cultivation, from which they raised five thousand five hundred and fifty bushels of produce, and cut one hundred and twenty-eight tons of hay. There are three schools in operation on this reserve, which are favorably reported of.

I regret to state that no report has been received from the agent to the Chippewa band of Cape Croker, in the County of Bruce, although he was instructed to forward a report. It may be stated, however, that matters generally upon the reserve are in a satisfactory condition.

There are three schools in operation, which are successfully conducted.

The Chippewas of Christian Islands, in the Georgian Bay, are in comfortable circumstances. They are a well-conducted and industrious community. There is a school in operation on the main island in the group. These Indians number three hundred and eighteen. They have four hundred and fifty-one acres under tillage, of which thirty-four acres were newly broken this year. The quantity of produce raised by them was two thousand three hundred and eighteen bushels, and they cut thirty-seven tons of hay.

The Indians of Manitoulin Island, in no wise disheartened by the unsuccessful crops of the previous season, as referred to in my report of last year, planted their lands with grain and roots, and their industry has been rewarded by ample returns of both products. The hay was, however, light. Their fisheries were successful and remunerative.

The bands on the north shore of Lake Huron were not so successful in providing for their wants. Those Indians depend mainly upon the chase for a subsistence; and their last season's hunt, owing to the unusual depth of snow, was not so successful as usual.

The destruction by fire of the two industrial school buildings at Wikwemikong, on Manitoulin Island, is to be deplored. These institutions were in active operation at the time the fire occurred, which was in the depth of winter; and, as a matter of course, operations had to be, to a large extent, suspended. Happily, however, the Principals of the institutions were able to procure temporary accommodation for a considerable number of the pupils, by hiring buildings, and thus the teaching of the children was not wholly stopped—though, necessarily, many of the pupils could not be accommodated, owing to the limited house room the disposal of the Prin-

cipals, and they were returned to their parents. Parliament having granted \$4,000 towards the reconstruction of the buildings, that work has been proceeded with, and the building for the girls' department is approaching completion, and will probably be occupied at an early date. That for the boys will be proceeded with in the spring. The interruption in the industrial training of the children was rendered less serious owing to the zealous efforts of those in charge of the institutions, and their assistants, although, through lack of sufficient accommodation, their endeavors to continue their commendable work of instruction were, of course, greatly retarded. An interesting report by the Rev. M. DuRouquet, the Principal of the institutions, will be found among the appendices to this report.

There are six day schools in operation on Manitoulin Island, and five on the mainland. The Indians of Manitoulin Island keep the roads running through their Reserves in good order. This is especially the case on the Wikwemikong reserve. The Indian population of the superintendency is three thousand three hundred and forty-three. They have three thousand one hundred and twenty acres under cultivation. Their crops amounted, in the aggregate, to forty-two thousand and sixty-nine bushels of produce and one thousand two hundred and ninety tons of hay. The fish captured by them were valued at \$18,450, and the furs at \$5,205.50; while the revenue derived from other industries is estimated to have amounted to \$5,850.

The Indians of the Parry Sound and Muskoka districts are represented as being in a prosperous condition. The Parry Island Band have shown much energy in clearing lands for farming purposes; and I am happy to be able to state that indulgence in intoxicants is now a thing of rare occurrence with these Indians. Increased interest is also taken by them in school matters.

The bands at Shawanega and Henvey Inlet preserve their normal condition. The partial failure of their hunt last winter occasioned some distress in the latter band. Each of these bands has a school in operation on its reserve.

The band on the Lake Nipissing reserve appear to have had a most successful season. The proximity of the Canadian Pacific Railway to the reserve has, however, not been unattended with disadvantages to these Indians, bringing, as it did, in its train, unprincipled parties, who were only too ready to barter spirituous liquors with them for their furs and other property. With a view to prevent a continuance of this condition of matters, the Department of Justice, at the request of this Department, appointed a constable to discover and bring to trial any parties committing infractions of the law in the above respect. Several have been convicted and punished; and the effect has been to check effectually the liquor traffic with these Indians. A school house is in course of construction on the reserve.

The band of Chief Dokis, whose reserve is situated on French River, support themselves for the most part, by trading with other Indians for furs. Their reserve is a very valuable heritage, but as yet they have not occupied it, preferring to reside upon a portion of the Lake Nipissing reserve, being, I suppose, a more eligible locality for carrying on their business in trading.

The Temogamingue band, for whom a reserve was last year located upon the lake of that name, expressed some dissent from the proposed plan of the same. There has consequently been a delay in having the location finally approved of. It is hoped, however, that a satisfactory understanding will soon be arrived at in the matter.

The Naishecutayong band is very limited in numbers, and their reserve is of little value as an agricultural tract. These Indians support themselves by working for lumber merchants and at mills, and by fishing.

The Indians composing the several bands of the two Districts last described are of the Chippewa tribe.

In the same superintendency a section of the Iroquois band of the Lake of Two Mountains is located upon a reserve in the Township of Gibson, in the District of Muskoka. The progress made by these Indians, considering the short time that has elapsed since their removal to this reserve, is remarkable. From forty to fifty acres of new land were broken and brought under cultivation this year. This, when added to the area previously cultivated by them gives a large extent of farm land, and the Indians have not failed to use it profitably. The varieties of crops raised consisted of oats, peas, rye, corn, potatoes, turnips, timothy hay, Hungarian grass, and millet. Their live stock has increased fifty per cent in one year.

It was hoped that the residue of the band at the Lake of Two Mountains might have been induced to join their brethren on this reserve, but up to the present time they have manifested an entire disinclination to do so.

The Indian population of the Parry Sound and Muskoka Districts numbers seven hundred and ninety-eight. The area of land under cultivation consists of one thousand and seventy acres, of which sixty acres were broken for the first time this year. The products of the soil amounted to sixteen thousand five hundred and forty-one bushels, and they cut one hundred and eighty-five tons of hay. The value of the fish captured by the Indians of this superintendency during the year is estimated at \$1,850, and the furs at \$7,100, and from their other industries they realized \$1,750.

The two Ojibbawa or Chippewa bands, who occupy a reserve on Garden river are not successful as agriculturists, and they neither hunt nor fish to any great

extent. They depend for a subsistence principally upon boat building, and acting as guides and laborers for exploratory and surveying parties. They cultivate, in an indifferent manner, about one thousand one hundred acres of land.

There are two schools in operation on the reserve.

The small band of Algonquins, whose reserve is situated in the County of Renfrew, on Golden Lake, are evincing a greater desire to farm. They have also purchased some horses and oxen, and have erected several new buildings. A school is in operation on the reserve. These Indians number but eighty-one. The yield from their farms amounted to four hundred and twenty one bushels of produce and twenty-two tons of hay.

The Chippewas of Lake Superior number one thousand six hundred and sixty-seven souls. The majority of these Indians live principally by hunting. The agent, however, reports that they have accomplished more in agriculture during the past year than they had ever previously done. On the Fort William reserve the Indians made some very good bridges, which were greatly needed. They also drained, by ditching, a quantity of land in the rear part of their reserve that had been previously too wet to work. They also put the roads running through the reserve in good order, repaired the old bridges and ditches, and established a pound for impounding animals found running at large, appointed a pathmaster, and made regulations as to the height of fences on the reserve. There are two schools on this reserve—one of them, for girls, is also an orphanage, and of the industrial type. It is highly spoken of. The building in which it is conducted was recently completed at a cost of \$7,000. It is managed by the ladies of the Order of St. Joseph. The boys' day school is also making satisfactory progress.

The other points on Lake Superior frequented by the Chippewas are Pays Plat, Pic River, Michipicoton River, Red Rock, Nipigon Lake and Long Lake. At the three first-named points the Indians had made clearings and built houses on Crown lands. The Department has been able to secure the same for them, and has had a survey made dividing the land occupied into small farms. This has afforded the Indian occupants much satisfaction. The Indians of Nipigon Lake have a reserve on Gull River. It has never been surveyed, and they have not as yet settled upon it.

The Indians of Lake Superior have two hundred and seventy acres under tillage, of which five acres were newly broken this year. They raised five thousand six hundred and ten bushels of grain and roots and cut ninety tons of hay.

#### QUEBEC.

The Algonquin and Têtes des Boules Indians of the River Desert number four hundred and ten souls, of whom about one-half cultivate land. The others

either trap fur-bearing animals or work for the lumbermen. Many of those who farm join in the hunt in the winter. Some of them have neat houses and barns. Their reserve consists of a valuable tract of land, which forms the Township of Maniwaki. They have five hundred and sixty acres under cultivation; of which twenty-five acres were newly broken this year. The quantity of produce raised by them was three thousand six hundred and ten bushels. They also cut ninety tons of hay. The value of the furs captured by them amounted to \$5,100; and from their other industries they realized about \$2,350. There is a school in operation on the reserve.

Upon the reserve on Lake Témiscamingue, in the County of Pontiac, the school referred to in my report for 1884, as then about to be opened, has been brought into operation, and it is expected that good results will ensue. The Department furnished this band with an excellent yoke of oxen last spring, which has greatly encouraged them to extend their farming operations.

The Iroquois band of St. Régis, in the County of Huntingdon, appear to be turning their attention more assiduously to agriculture.

Owing to the rigid measures adopted by this Department, in conjunction with the authorities of the United States, whereby the sale of liquor to Indians by parties on either side of the boundary line, was effectually put a stop to, the acceptance by the town of Cornwall (where the Indians used to procure liquor with too much facility) of the prohibitory liquor law, and the presence of a resident agent on the reserve, intemperance is now a thing of rare occurrence with any of these Indians, and, as a result, order prevails among them.

Four schools are in operation on the reserve, and a fifth is about to be opened on St. Régis Island, where a suitable building has been erected for the purpose.

The population of the band is one thousand one hundred and thirty-six. They have two thousand three hundred and fifty acres under tillage, sixty-two acres of which were newly broken this year. They raised nineteen thousand five hundred and sixty-five bushels of produce and cut two hundred and forty-two tons of hay.

The Iroquois of Sault St. Louis, or Caughnawaga, appear to be in a satisfactory condition.

Their agricultural exhibition, which is now an established institution, was, this year, quite successful, the products of the Indian farms contrasting favorably with those exhibited at other agricultural shows. Everything connected with the show was conducted in a manner highly creditable to the committee of management. Several Dominion policemen were present to preserve order.

A change has been effected in the school management in this reserve, which I hope will prove beneficial. As stated in my report for 1884, the school was not as

satisfactory in its results as one would wish. A new teacher has recently been appointed. He comes highly recommended, and it is confidently expected that a fresh impetus will be given to the education of the children.

The order and decorum that have of late years characterized the village of Caughnawaga have, I am glad to be able to report, continued during the past year.

An investigation was held into the claims to land on the reserve, and such of them as are disputed by the chiefs are receiving the careful examination of this Department and of the Department of Justice; and so soon as they shall have been determined the land on the reserve will be divided among those entitled to share in the same, and location tickets will be issued to the individual occupants, when it is hoped that the fact of each holder of land possessing a document giving him a title of occupation to a location will tend to stimulate these Indians to greater efforts in agriculture. The population of the band is one thousand five hundred and sixty-nine.

They have four thousand acres under tillage, whereof eighty acres were newly broken this year. The produce raised by these Indians amounted to thirty-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-one bushels, and they also cut one thousand two hundred tons of hay. The value of their other industries is estimated at \$44,000. This band suffered a serious loss by the death this year of their Grand Chief Joseph Williams, to whose wise counsel and excellent example the present satisfactory condition of matters on the reserve is largely attributable.

The agent at Pierreville to the Abenaki band, whose reserve is situated at St. François du Lac, reports that these Indians have been more than usually successful in disposing of their manufactures and that there is a perceptible improvement in the moral tone of the band, the same being attributable to the prohibitory liquor law which is in force in the adjoining settlements, and in consequence of which the Indians cannot so easily obtain intoxicants. The population of this band is three hundred and three. They have three hundred acres of land under tillage, three acres of which were newly broken this year. They raised three thousand two hundred and eleven bushels of produce and cut sixty-eight tons of hay. The value of fish and furs captured, and of their manufactures was \$12,050.

The condition of the small band of Abenakis who occupy a reserve at Becancour remains unchanged.

The Huron band of Lorette in the County of Quebec engage more in manufacturing snow shoes, moccasins, lacrosse sticks, bead work, and other Indian wares than in hunting or agriculture. They manage to secure a sufficiency for their families and some of them are quite well off. They number two hundred and eighty-eight souls. From the above industries they are stated to have realized about \$47,000 during the past year.



The failure on the part of Mr. LeBel, the local Indian Agent, to forward a report on the condition of the Amalecites of Cacouna, Rivière du Loup and Rimouski renders me incapable of supplying any additional information to that contained in my Report for 1884 in regard to those Indians.

The agent last referred to as having been derelict of his duty through failure to forward his report, was, as was the case with several other agents, whose names will appear hereafter, repeatedly instructed to report; and it is certainly an indication that but little interest is taken in his duties when an Agent does not consider it worth his while to forward a report once a year upon the affairs of his agency.

The Micmac band, whose reserve is situated on the River Restigouche, in the County of Bonaventure, number about 500 souls. There was considerable drunkenness for some time prevalent among these Indians. With a view to the amendment of matters in this respect, the Department of Justice, at the request of this Department, appointed a Dominion constable to reside upon the reserve. The services of the stipendiary magistrate for the district of Gaspé were likewise enlisted, in order that offenders against the law might be summarily prosecuted. These measures have resulted in a complete change in the condition of matters on the reserve. These Indians possess ample resources, in the immediate neighbourhood of their reserve, for procuring a comfortable subsistence. They have, moreover, an extensive tract of arable land to cultivate. If they do not avail themselves of these advantages they have only themselves to blame. I regret that the non-receipt of a statistical statement from the agent prevents my supplying any details in respect to the property or industries of this band. There is a school in operation on the reserve.

The other Micmac band, of the County of Bonaventure, in the Township of Maria, numbers only one hundred and seven souls. They have made some progress in agriculture, and have purchased farming implements, waggons and horses; and have built barns for their produce and repaired their houses. They have three hundred and sixteen acres under cultivation, whereof twenty acres were newly broken this year. They raised one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight bushels of produce and cut forty tons of hay. There is a school in operation on the reserve.

The Montagnais band, whose reserve is at Pointe Bleue, on Lac St. Jean, in the County of Chicoutimi, are making fair progress in agriculture. Order and sobriety are characteristic of these people. The school on the reserve is well attended. The population of the band numbers three hundred and ninety-nine. They have one hundred acres under cultivation, of which twenty-three acres were broken for the first time this year. From this land they raised one thousand eight hundred and ten bushels of produce, and cut forty tons of hay. These Indians [still engage in the winter season in hunting fur-bearing animals, although the advancement of settlement has driven the animals to such a distance as to

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render the hunt for them scarcely remunerative. The value of the products of last season's hunt is estimated to have been \$13,000.

The Montagnais of the Lower St. Lawrence manage to subsist on the fruit of the chase and by the sale of furs captured in hunting; and their superintendent reports that they also this year paid the debts contracted with traders for supplies advanced to them to enable them to proceed to their hunting grounds, and that they are more comfortably clothed than usual. In order to prevent, if possible, the sale by interested parties of liquor to these Indians, a constable was stationed on the reserve at Betsiamits, while the constable previously employed there accompanied the superintendent in his tour of visitation of the various points on the coast to which these Indians resort when they return from their hunt in the interior. These measures, as well as the annual visit made by the stipendiary magistrate, who is paid by this Department to adjudicate upon cases in which Indians are concerned, will, it is trusted, have the effect of stamping out the traffic.

The Indians of Sept Iles engage more in fishing than the other Indians of the north shore. Some of them are employed by fishing establishments. They also engage in hunting fur-bearing animals during the winter. With the Indians of the Godbout seal and porpoise hunting forms an important factor in their means of subsistence. They also trap fur-bearing animals. At Escoumains the usual orderly condition of matters prevails. The Indians at this point are very industrious. It is the only place on the north shore at which seed may be planted with a fair chance of a successful yield.

At Betsiamits, where a large reserve is provided for the Indians of the north shore generally, the Indians resident thereon appear, from the annual reports received from the Superintendent and from the stipendiary magistrate, to have had a very successful season. Their hunt for fur was a profitable one, and resulted in their having one-third more furs to dispose of than in previous years. They are described as being all well clothed, and as having no want of food, either when on the reserve or while hunting. These statements are in contrast to the representations made to the Department in the early part of the season, by persons who should have known the real condition of matters on the reserve before making such strong representations, of exceptional destitution existing among these Indians, which induced the Department to send them additional assistance. The Indians of Betsiamits appear to procure, with too much facility, spirituous liquor at Rimouski, as well as from traders visiting the vicinity of the reserve.

The total Indian population on the north shore of the Lower St. Lawrence is one thousand two hundred and seventy-eight. The value of the furs obtained from their winter's hunt is estimated at \$17,000.

## NOVA SCOTIA.

The Indians of the counties of Annapolis and Shelburne are of the Miamae stock, as are the Indians, generally, of this Province. The Indians of these counties are said to be gradually improving in their habits. Their principal means of support are derived from fishing, hunting, from the sale of oil extracted from fish, and from the disposal of such articles as Indians generally manufacture. The Indian population of these counties is one hundred and twelve. I regret that the very meagre statistical statement forwarded by the agent prevents me from giving any further details respecting these Indians.

The sanitary condition of the Indians of the County of Digby, whose reserve is on Bear River, was not as good as usual during the past year. Consumption is the most fatal disease with which they are afflicted. Intemperance is not so common with members of this band as was formerly the case. The conviction and subsequent committal to prison of a person who had broken the law by selling intoxicants to some of them, has, doubtless, had a deterrent effect upon others.

The school on the reserve is favorably reported of by the Public School Inspector.

The Indians of the County of Yarmouth are included in the same agency, but there is no reserve in that county. They therefore camp on lands not their own, and very little is known about them. The Indian population of the two counties is two hundred and twenty-five. They have two hundred and fifty acres under cultivation, of which twelve acres were newly broken this year. They raised nine hundred and thirty-three bushels of farm produce, and cut thirty and a half tons of hay. The value of the fish and furs taken by them is estimated at \$6,000; and from other industries they are stated to have realized \$3,080.

The Indians of King's county number only seventy-five souls. They are, for the most part, well behaved, temperate, and industrious in their habits. They support themselves principally by the manufacture and sale of Indian work. They have no reserve for general occupation. A few families are settled upon a lot consisting of ten acres, which the Department purchased for them several years since. The others occupy pieces of land which they have either brought or which are the property of white people. These Indians subsist principally by the sale of Indian wares. They have six acres under tillage, two acres of which were newly broken this year. They raised three hundred and eighty bushels of produce.

The Indians of the counties of Queen's and Lunenburg number one hundred souls. They are reported to be improving in their circumstances. They have one hundred and thirty acres under cultivation, whereof five acres were broken for the first time this year. Their products amounted to four hundred and fifty-six bushels

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of grain, and forty tons of hay were cut by them. Their principal means of subsistence are derived from the sale of articles of Indian manufacture.

The Indians of the County of Halifax are very industrious, and temperate in their habits. The Indian population of this county is one hundred and ten. They have thirty acres under cultivation, from which they raised two hundred and thirty bushels of produce and cut ten tons of hay.

The non-receipt of a Report from Mr. Gass, the agent for the County of Hants, prevents me from adding anything to the remarks contained in my report for 1884 respecting these Indians, which had necessarily to be very brief, from the same cause.

The Indians of the County of Colchester have no reserve. The lands they occupy do not belong to them. They consequently do very little in the agricultural line. Truro is the point most resorted to by the Indians of this county, and it is also much frequented by Indians from adjoining counties. They can here find a ready mart for their manufactures. The Indian population of the county is one hundred.

The condition of the Indians of the County of Cumberland appears to be improving. They are, for the most part, temperate and industrious. Their principal occupations are coopering and farming. They number seventy-seven souls. They have sixteen acres under cultivation, of which six acres were newly broken this year. They raised four hundred and fifty bushels of produce and cut five tons of hay. Their other industries realized for them about \$800.

The condition of the Indians of the County of Pictou is reported to be unchanged. They derive a subsistence principally from fishing and coopering. Very little interest is manifested by them in farming. The school on the reserve at Fisher's Grant has been closed for some months. The teacher having resigned, it is not easy to obtain the services of another competent person for the position.

The Indian agent for the counties of Antigonish and Guysboro' having only forwarded a statistical statement, I am unable to do more than furnish statistics respecting the Indians of those counties. They number fifty souls, have one hundred and seventeen acres of land under cultivation, raised five hundred and twenty-five bushels of produce, cut thirty-two tons of hay; and they realized from other industries about \$1,300.

The Indians of the County of Inverness are improving morally, being more temperate in their habits than was formerly the case. They have a school on the reserve at Whycocomagh, which is well reported of by the Public School Inspector, and the children attending it are said to be making fair progress in their studies. The Indian population of the county is one hundred and fourteen. They have

two hundred and sixty acres under tillage, of which six acres were newly broken this year. They raised one thousand seven hundred and sixty-two bushels of produce and cut one hundred and fifty tons of hay.

The Indians of the County of Cape Breton have, I regret to report, suffered very much from sickness. Consumption has been very fatal among them. On the reserve at Eskasoni considerable progress in cultivating the soil is apparent. The school on the reserve is not regularly attended by the Indian children, and they do not therefore derive the benefit therefrom that would otherwise be the case. The Indian population of the county is two hundred and fifty-two. They have two hundred and fifty acres under cultivation, four acres of which were newly broken this year. They raised two thousand three hundred and seventy bushels of produce and cut ninety-five tons of hay.

No report or statistical statement having been received from the Rev. R. Grant, Indian agent for the County of Victoria, I am unable to give any particulars regarding the Indians of that county, other than those contained in my Report for 1884.

The same remark has to be made respecting Indian affairs in the County of Richmond, for which County the Rev. John McDougall is Indian agent. The Department has had a road built from the mainland to Chapel Island, which forms part of the reserve of these Indians. This will be a great convenience to the public generally. A small wharf will also be constructed in the ensuing spring, at the terminus of the road, for the landing of vessels.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Indians in the northern and eastern sections of the Province, like their brethren in the Province of Nova Scotia, are Micmacs. They do not appear to be making that progress that the many resources within their reach should enable them to do. The very meagre report of their superintendent merely admits of my making the above remark respecting these Indians, besides adding a few statistics contained in the tabular statement forwarded by him.

There are ten bands, owning as many reserves, distributed over the northern and eastern counties. They comprise nine hundred and twenty-six souls. They have three hundred and fifty-four acres under tillage, three acres of which were newly broken this year. They raised six thousand seven hundred and fifty-six bushels of produce and cut forty-five tons of hay. There are two schools in operation on the reserves at Eel Ground and Barnt Church, in the County of Northumberland. A third school was to have been established on the reserve at Big Cove, in the County of Kent; but further action in the matter has been discontinued for the present, in consequence of the Indians not having fulfilled their promise to erect a frame for the building.

The Indians of the southern and western portions of the Province are Amalacites. Those resident in counties other than Victoria and Madawaska are under the superintendence of Mr. James Farrell. The Indians of the two last-named counties are included in the agency of Mr. Moses Craig. In the former superintendency there are eight bands, with a total population of four hundred and seventeen souls. In the latter agency there are two bands, the population being two hundred and seven souls.

On the reserve in the County of York, at Kingsclear, pleasing progress in agriculture is noticeable. Both grain and root crops were this year very good, being considerable in quantity and excellent in quality.

Formerly, any attempt at agriculture was confined to the Kingsclear and St. Mary's reserves. This year, however, has witnessed a change in that respect on the part of the Indians owning the reserve at Woodstock, in the County of Carlton, of the Indians of St. George, in the County of Charlotte, and of those of the counties of King's and Queen's. The Indians of this superintendency engage also in the manufacture of tubs, churns, baskets and other wares, in the making of which Indians, generally, are skillful. Many of them also compete in the labor market, and obtain employment at remunerative wages in loading boats, driving rafts of timber in rivers and streams, and in working at mills.

There are schools in operation on the reserves at Kingsclear and St. Mary's. Prosecutions, followed, in two cases, by convictions of parties accused of selling liquor to Indians have resulted in the diminution of that demoralizing traffic among them.

The total area of land brought under cultivation by the Indians of this superintendency is one hundred and fifty-one and a-half acres, of which two acres were newly broken this year. The quantity of produce raised amounted to one thousand one hundred and seven and a half bushels, and the hay cut to thirty-five tons. Their income from other industries is estimated to have been \$13,075.

The Indians of Victoria and Madawaska, who are embraced, as previously stated, in Mr. Craig's agency, are making slow but steady progress as agriculturists. They derive also quite a revenue from tourists visiting the picturesque head waters of the rivers Tobique and St. John. The school on the reserve at Tobique is favorably reported of, although the attendance of children thereat is not what it should be. These Indians have one thousand seven hundred and twenty acres under culture, of which five acres were newly broken this year. The products from this land amounted to four thousand three hundred and fifty-five bushels, and ninety tons of hay were also cut by them. Their other industries are believed to have produced about \$5,000. These Indians appear to be an orderly and industrious people.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The Micmac Indians of this Province reside principally on Lennox Island. There is, however, a small band on another reserve, situated in Township 39. Many families likewise frequent the suburbs of Charlottetown, and other towns and villages of the Province. Those on the Lennox Island reserve are reported to have made fair progress in agriculture. It is stated that their crops compare favorably with those of their white neighbors on Prince Edward Island.

The Indian population in the Province numbers three hundred and seven souls. They have one hundred and thirty-five acres under cultivation, whereof ten acres were newly broken this year. From their fields they obtained one thousand six hundred and thirty-five bushels of produce and cut forty tons of hay.

Their other industries are estimated to have yielded them in value \$5,900.

There is a school in operation on Lennox Island which is favorably reported of by the Public School Inspector, excepting as regards attendance, which is very small and irregular.

## MANITOBA AND KEEWATIN.

In forwarding his annual report of inspection, the inspector for this province and district comments upon the general prosperity and contentment prevailing among the Indians. His remarks on this head are as follows:—

"In all my interviews with the bands visited during the year, no complaint of any importance was made to me concerning any irregularity in the payment of their annuities, or in reference to the quantity or quality of the various supplies furnished them; but, on the contrary, they frequently expressed their gratitude to the Government for so faithfully carrying out the stipulations of their respective treaties. Their loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen is so deeply rooted in their affections that neither the signal fires of rebellion nor the persistent importunities of accredited messengers from the insurgents, with presents of tobacco, to endeavor to induce them to follow their kindred on the bloody trail of the war path, could influence them in alienating their allegiance from their beloved Sovereign, whom they profoundly reverence with a devotion bordering upon idolatry."

Within the eastern portion of the territory covered by Treaty No. 3, the bands of Lac des Mille Lacs, Sturgeon Lake, Wabegon, Eagle Lake, Lac Seul, Mattawan and English river are located on reserves chosen by themselves when the treaty was made with them. The population of these bands is eight hundred and forty-one. They have sixty-nine and a half acres under cultivation on the several Reserves. The quantity of produce raised by them was four thousand eight hundred and seven bushels. The value of the fish and furs taken by them is estimated at \$10,893. There were three schools in operation, viz, two on the

reserve at Lac Seul and one on the reserve of the Mattawan and Eagle River band. This latter school has temporarily suspended operations, owing to the resignation of the teacher. These Indians subsist, for the the most part, on the products of the chase, and by the sale of furs captured by them.

The Indians of the Rainy Lake country are distributed among six bands, located upon Reserves at Manitou River, Little Forks, Coutecheeching, Staugecoming, Naicutcheweenan and Nickickosinniecan. They number eight hundred and eighty-souls and have under cultivation one hundred and twenty-eight acres, of which seventeen acres were newly broken this year. The quantity of produce raised by them amounted to five thousand one hundred and fifty-six and a half bushels, and the hay cut consisted of one hundred and thirty-four tons. The value of the fish and furs taken by them is estimated at \$12,330.

There are eleven bands of Indians in the Lake of the Woods district. They subsist, for the most part, on game and fish—there being usually abundance of both these means of food supply in that section of country, though the fisheries last season were a failure. Many of these Indians also work for lumbermen, and they likewise derive a considerable revenue from the sale of furs captured by them. The population of the eleven bands is nine hundred and sixty-eight. They have eighty-six and three-quarter acres under cultivation, whereof thirty-four acres were newly broken this year. They raised nine thousand one hundred and fifty-nine bushels of produce and cut three hundred and fifty-seven tons of hay. The value of the furs taken by them is estimated at \$10,780, and from other industries they are thought to have realized \$8,600.

The St. Peter's band of Manitoba, had not as good a crop as usual in the fall of 1884, owing to the exceptionally wet weather; but, notwithstanding, the Indians did not suffer from want of food during the winter. The hay which they saved was sold by them at a good price, and they caught and sold a great many fish. The members of this band who have settled down to farming are nearly as comfortable in their circumstances as the white settlers of the neighborhood, and if they would only remain steadily at work they would all soon have a competence; but, unfortunately, the wandering habits and regardlessness of time so characteristic of Indians still act, in too many cases, as an obstacle to their progress towards that condition.

There are five schools in operation on the reserve. All of these institutions are favorably reported of.

The Indians of Broken Head River have about the same means of subsistence as those of St. Peter's. They have a ready market in the vicinity for the disposal of the products of the soil, of their manufactures, and of the fish and game captured by them. Those who remain on the reserve are in comfortable circumstances. There is a school thereon, which is conducted with efficiency.



The band owning the reserve at Fort Alexander had a very bountiful harvest, and consequently plenty of food during the winter, notwithstanding the failure of their fall fishery, on which they greatly depend. They also had an abundance of game, and their capture of fur-bearing animals was exceptionally large. There are two schools in operation on the reserve. The Rev. Mr. Madore, the teacher of the Roman Catholic school, has succeeded remarkably well in advancing his pupils in the various branches of education.

The population of the three bands last referred to is two thousand one hundred and forty-seven souls. The area of land brought under cultivation by them was six hundred and ninety-two acres, of which fifty acres were newly broken this year. They raised nine thousand eight hundred and sixty bushels of produce, and cut one thousand eight hundred and seventy five tons of hay. The value of the fish captured by them was \$29,000, and of furs \$6,000. Their other industries are estimated to have been worth to them \$2,500.

The band whose reserve is situated on Rosseau River broke up twenty acres of new land this year. They also planted a considerable quantity of potatoes, wheat, barley, turnip seed and other vegetables.

The band owning the reserve at Long Plain broke up about the same quantity of new land, and planted the same kinds of seeds as the band last described. During last winter considerable fencing was made by these Indians, with rails and pickets cut and prepared by themselves. Fifty acres will be brought under crop on this reserve next season.

The band whose reserve is situated at Swan Lake still persists in remaining off it. It is hoped, however, that the majority of them will soon be induced to remove there. At present the greater number of these Indians are settled on a location for many years occupied by them at "The Gardens," near Hamilton's Crossing, on the Assiniboine River. There are thirty-two acres under cultivation on the reserve. The councillors of this band were deposed from their positions last spring, by Order of Your Excellency in Council, for having stopped the freighters en route to the Swan Lake reserve with supplies, and forcibly taken possession of the latter. These men, it is believed, have been largely instrumental in preventing the other members of the band from settling upon the reserve at Swan Lake. Their removal from the important positions held by them in the band will diminish their influence; and it is hoped that the band will soon listen to the wiser counsels of those who have their interests at heart, and remove to the fertile tract of land provided for them at the above point, where they will enjoy the additional advantage of a good fishery.

The population of the above three bands, which are embraced in the Portage la Prairie agency, is eight hundred and eighty-three. The Indians of this agency

have ninety-three acres under cultivation, of which fifty acres were newly broken this year. They raised one thousand five hundred and forty bushels of produce and cut one hundred and forty-five tons of hay. The amount realized by them from their other industries is estimated at \$6,000.

The Indians owning the reserve at Sandy Bay on Lake Manitoba, appear to have resolved to settle down to farming. They have made preparations to build houses, have broken up, fenced and planted new land on the reserve, have completed the erection of a school house, and made preparations to build a residence for the teacher. The school is making fair progress. The fishing in the locality is good, and from the sale of the fish the Indians derive a revenue. The agent reports that these Indians appreciate the earnest desire of the Government to promote their welfare, and thankfully acknowledge the assistance given them; and as fur-bearing animals have become scarce, they begin to realize the fact that they must look mainly to the soil for their future subsistence.

The Indians composing what is known as the Lake Manitoba band are described as endeavoring to improve their circumstances. Members of this band who have been nomadic in their habits, or who had settled outside of the reserve, are gradually moving to it. The band being divided into two sections, resident at a considerable distance from each other, much inconvenience is occasioned, especially in school matters. Their fishery last autumn was unsuccessful. The Indians made good use of the seed given them last spring, and here, as elsewhere, owing to the diminution in the number of fur-bearing animals, the Indians are obliged to resort to agriculture for a subsistence.

The Indians of the Ebb and Flow Lake reserve have their gardens well fenced, and own a considerable number of horses and cattle. They have also erected some new houses and barns. The school on this reserve is favorably reported of.

The band on the reserve at Crane River had good crops this year. They own a number of horses and cattle, and have good stables. There is a school in operation on the Reserve, but owing to the indifferent health of the teacher (who is to be replaced by another), the progress of the pupils has been unsatisfactory.

The gardens of the Indians of the Water Hen River reserve are reported to have been more skilfully worked than was formerly the case. There is an excellent school in operation on this reserve.

At Duck Bay the Indians are orderly, and desirous of making progress. There is a school in operation on the reserve, which appears to be very well managed, and the progress of the pupils is satisfactory.

The band owning the reserve at Sandy Bay, on Lake St. Martin, have, with the assistance of the Department, recently completed a good school house, which

was very much needed. The services of a new teacher having been secured, the pupils in attendance are now making fair progress. These Indians had not a successful harvest.

On the Lake St. Martin reserve (proper) school matters are not in a satisfactory condition, which is mainly attributable to the want of proper accommodation. The Indians have promised, however, to erect the walls of a school house, which, being done, the Department will complete and furnish the building. The gardens on their reserve are well fenced, but these Indians live principally on fish.

At Fairford the Indians have under crop about thirty-six acres. They own a large number of cattle and horses. There are two excellent schools in operation on the reserve, and the progress of the pupils is very satisfactory.

The nine bands last described are included in the Lake Manitoba Agency. The population of these bands is one thousand two hundred and fifty-five. They occupy two hundred and sixty-two houses, own eighty-eight barns and stables, have ninety-two acres under tillage, eighteen and three-quarter acres of which were broken for the first time this year. They raised five thousand and fourteen and a half bushels of produce, and cut eight hundred and eighteen tons of hay; and the value of the fish and furs captured by them is estimated at \$12,911.

The Indians of the Black River reserve, on the south-east shore of Lake Winnipeg, obtain a subsistence by working at the saw mills, and from the sale of fish captured in the waters of the lake. They attend fairly well to their gardens.

There is a school in operation on the reserve, and it is hoped that at an early date better school accommodation than that at present had will be provided. The Indians have promised to complete a building which has been partially erected for the purpose.

On the Hollow Water River reserve not much has been done in the agricultural line by the Indians. They subsist to a large extent on fish, which are abundant in the vicinity of the reserve, and they likewise obtain employment at a saw mill adjacent to the same. A school house was erected during the past year on the reserve, and a school is now in operation.

The band occupying the reserve at Loon Straits are maintaining their character for industry. They met with a serious loss in the destruction, by fire, of a quantity of good wood. The fire occurred while the Indians were burning brush in clearing land for cultivation.

The Indians owning the reserve at Blood Vein River for the most part hunt fur-bearing animals, and live on game and fish. It was hoped at one time that they were about to settle upon their reserve, but the indications of their doing so are not now so apparent.

On the Fisher River reserve the Indians have manifested considerable enterprise in building and in agriculture. They also own a good many cattle. Many of these Indians likewise obtain remunerative employment at saw mills. From these resources, as well as from the sale of fish, they are able to support their families. There is an excellent school in operation on the reserve.

The band at Jack Head had their gardens in good order when last visited by the agent. They have been unfortunate in losing some of their cattle. There is a school in operation on the reserve.

At Beren's River the Indians, who own a reserve of good land there, have erected some new houses, and their crop, when the inspector visited the reserve, promised an abundant yield. There is a school in operation at this point.

The Indians of the Norway House reserve had a very successful fur hunt last season. Furs and fish are their principal source of revenue. They, however, farm to some extent, and own a considerable number of cattle. There are two schools in operation on the reserve.

At Cross Lake the circumstances of the Indians are similar to those of the Norway House band. The school on the reserve at that point is highly spoken of by the agent.

The nine bands last described are embraced in the Lake Winnipeg agency. The population of these bands is one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four. They own five hundred and fifty-one dwellings, and sixty-one barns and stables. They have one hundred and thirty-six acres under cultivation, of which twelve and a half acres were newly broken this year. They raised seven thousand two hundred and twelve bushels of produce and cut one hundred and forty-three tons of hay. The value of the fish caught by them is estimated at \$7,700. The value of the furs captured by them is not stated.

## NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

### DISTRICT OF SASKATCHEWAN.

The Indians owning the reserve at Grand Rapids, where the Saskatchewan empties itself into Lake Winnipeg, are reported to have attended better to their gardens than in previous years. They have erected a new school house, but the furniture forwarded from Winnipeg for the same was unfortunately lost, having to be thrown overboard, owing to the vessel which carried it having become stranded during a storm. The old furniture, which is of very rude manufacture, will consequently have to be used until next season, when it will be replaced by more suitable articles. The school is now in operation. These Indians obtain employment in loading and unloading vessels, and many of them also are